



North West Water

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

F2/A27

21st July, 1980

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee:
(Mrs. W. Lomas; Messrs. T. A. F. Barnes;
A. G. R. Brown; T. M. Farrer; J. H. Fell;
J. Johnson; Wm. McKenna; R. A. Parkin;
L. B. Williams; G. Wilson and Major
J. G. W. Skipwith:
Ex officio Members:
The Chairman of the Authority (Mr. G. Mann);
The Vice Chairman of the Authority
(Mr. A. Richardson); and the Chairmen of
the Local Advisory Committees (Messrs.
J. S. Bailey; F. Bunting; J. M. Croft;
E. P. Ecroyd and R. D. Houghton).

Dear Member,

A meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE will be held
at 2.15 p.m. on MONDAY, 28TH JULY, 1980 in the BOARD ROOM, DAWSON
HOUSE, GREAT SANKEY, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

G. W. SHAW,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Appointment of Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
4. Proceedings of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees

(A) Mersey and Weaver - 18th June, 1980.

[Recommendation in Minute No. 33: Rod Licence Duties.]

(D) North Cumbria - 24th June, 1980.

[Recommendation in Minute No. 32: Fishing Offences and Prosecutions 1979/80 (to be considered under item No. 10 of the Agenda)].

(E) Lune, Wyre and Furness - 30th June, 1980.

[Recommendations in the following Minutes:

46 - Fishing Offences and Prosecutions 1979/80
(to be considered under item No. 10 of the Agenda).

50 - Fish Trap at Broadrairie Weir, River Lune.]

5. Membership of the Committee.
6. Appointment of Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee 1980/81.
7. Review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees.
8. Appointment of Fisheries Representatives on Local Land Drainage Committees.
9. Income from Sale of Rod and Line Licences 1979.
10. Fishing Offences and Prosecutions 1979/80.
11. Administration and management of selected Fisheries by Local Angling Associations.
12. Coops on Rivers Derwent and Eden.
13. Any other business.

NOTE: Lunch will be served in the Members' Dining Room at approximately 1.00 p.m. The Menu for the day is enclosed and Members attending for lunch are asked to indicate their choice of main course to the Assistant on duty near the Members' Retiring Room.

F2/A1

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MERSEY AND WEAVER
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

18TH JUNE, 1980

Present: J.S. Bailey, Esq. (Chairman)
F. Egerton, Esq. R. Newton, Esq.
A. Jones, Esq. Dr. M. Pugh Thomas
P. Neal, Esq. J.A. Shanahan, Esq.

0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Mr. D. Bridgewood, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

In response to a question on Minute No.26, (Future Plans and Programme for Trout Fisheries in the Bolton area) concerning the stocking of the Rivington complex of reservoirs, the Area Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that these reservoirs were stocked at a higher rate of fish per acre over a season than any others in the country.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80.

A report was submitted setting out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for such offences during 1979/80. The report also summarised the offences and prosecutions within the Committee's area during the same period.

Discussion took place on the wording and application of the current excusal granted by MAFF under section 25(1) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, which came into force on 1st January, 1979, whereby fishing for freshwater fish and eels by rod and line in any pond or other water within the Authority's fisheries boundaries, having a surface area of not more than one hectare and not connecting or communicating with any river, was exempt from the Authority's licensing system in relation to fishing by rod and line.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee explaining the reasons for the incorporation of the phrase: "not connecting or communicating with any river", within the current

33. ROD LICENCE DUTIES

Consideration was given to a proposal that an angler holding an appropriate Authority rod and line licence to fish for non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels, should be allowed to purchase an additional similar licence for his own personal use at a lower charge.

RECOMMENDED:

That anglers holding a current Authority rod and line licence to fish for non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels be allowed to purchase an additional similar licence for their own exclusive use, at a reduced cost.

34. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee which included river conditions and fishing, the Hollingworth and pilot hatcheries, stocking by the Authority, consultations with outside interests and pollution incidents and fish mortalities.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

35. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

It was reported that at the meeting on 16th June, 1980 (Minute No.9(3)) the Authority had resolved, inter alia,

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980".

The next meeting of the Regional Committee was due to take place on 28th July, 1980, and members were advised to submit any comments upon the proposed review to either the Chairman, Mr. Bailey, or to the Director of Administration.

RESOLVED:

That in any reorganisation of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees some form of representation from the Mersey and Weaver area be maintained.

36. SALE MOOR WATER PARK - GENERAL LICENCE TO FISH

Concern was expressed that the Greater Manchester Council the owners of, and the controlling body for fishing, Sale Moor Water Park and who were the holders of a general fishing licence in respect of those waters issued by the Authority under the provisions of section 25(7) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, were including in the cost of a permit to fish those waters a percentage in respect of their general licence. In the opinion of the Committee this was particularly unfair to those anglers who already held a current Authority rod licence, as in effect they were then being asked to pay twice for the privilege of fishing at the Park.

It was explained that the cost of the permit to fish at the Park and any incidental charges included in such cost, were entirely a matter for GMC as the controlling body for the waters, and that it was inappropriate for the Authority to make representations to GMC on behalf of the anglers.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted to the next meeting explaining the principles adopted by the Authority when considering applications for, and issuing general fishing licences under section 25(7) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

37. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
SELECTED FISHERIES BY LOCAL ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS

It was proposed that in view of the current financial situation and the consequent restraints imposed upon the fisheries budget, the Authority consider the feasibility of transferring the duties in relation to their administration and management in respect of selected fisheries to reputable Angling Associations.

It was envisaged that in such cases, the Authority might lease a given fishery to such Association, possibly on a yearly basis. The Association concerned would then become responsible for the stocking and bailiffing of the fishery. In the present economic climate this would benefit the Authority who would be in receipt of certain regular income without the necessity for any outlay.

It was explained that before any such arrangement could even be contemplated problems of capital expenditure likely to be encountered by any Association so involved, in relation to upkeep and safety standards, would need to be resolved and that in any case such proposal would need to be considered by the Authority's Recreation Sub-Committee in the context of overall recreation policy.

RESOLVED:

That the views of the Regional Committee be sought on the proposal.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SOUTH LANCASHIRE
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19TH JUNE, 1980

Present: R.D. Houghton, Esq. (Chairman)
A.G.R. Brown, Esq., Professor W.E. Kershaw
J.P. Lord, Esq.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T.A.F. Barnes, Dr. R.B. Broughton, Mr. J. Clegg, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

31. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

A report was submitted setting out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for such offences during 1979/80. The report also summarised the offences and prosecutions within the Committee's area during the same period.

33. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee which included river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, the Langcliffe and pilot hatcheries, stocking by the Authority and angling associations, transfers for clubs carried out by Authority staff and pollution incidents and fish mortalities.

Concern was expressed about the pollution and consequential fish mortalities in the Rivers Calder and Ribble following a violent thunderstorm and associated flooding on 12th June when storm sewers had overflowed.

The Committee was informed that samples of river water had been taken and that once analysis had been carried out it was hoped to be able to pin-point the main source of the pollution of which the River Calder appeared to have borne the brunt. It was believed that between 5,000 and 7,000 coarse fish had been killed as a result of this pollution, and bailiffs reports indicated that possibly 8 salmon and 30 sea trout had also died. Some dead smolts had been seen in the estuary, although this was invariably the case each year irrespective of the weather. It was difficult to say whether the normal smolt run had been affected as due to the low river levels which had prevailed during April and May, this year's smolt run was later than normal. The Authority had spent a great deal of money in recent years in a bid to clean up the Calder and its tributaries and although there had been similar pollution incidents in 1970 and 1978, it was most unfortunate that the Ribble should now suffer from the effects of the worst storm for twenty years.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be received and approved.
- (2) That a detailed report concerning the quality of water presently entering the River Calder be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, with particular reference being made to the accumulation of silt during prolonged dry spells.

34. CLOSURE OF PRESTON DOCKS

Discussion took place on the proposed closure of the Preston Docks and the implications of their closure on fisheries and land drainage. The Committee was advised that the Authority was aware of the situation and had been involved in discussions with the Preston Borough Council.

At the present time the Council were examining the problem of siltation with the Hydraulics Research Station. Once their findings had been reported they would be examined by the Authority who would then make their own proposals to the Council.

In the meantime, the Authority would continue to monitor the situation.

35. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

It was reported that at their meeting on 16th June, 1980, (Minute No.9(3)) the Authority had resolved, inter alia,

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980".

The next meeting of the Regional Committee was due to take place on 28th July, 1980, and members were advised to submit any comments upon the proposed review to either the Chairman, Mr.Houghton, or to the Director of Administration.

RESOLVED:

That in any reorganisation of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees some form of representation from the South Lancashire area be maintained.

F1/B25

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
DERWENT AND WEST CUMBRIA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

23RD JUNE 1980

Present: F. Bunting, Esq. G. Richardson, Esq.
A. Gleaden, Esq. G. B. Sedgewick, Esq.
J. M. Mawson, Esq. E. Young, Esq.

33. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That Mr. F. Bunting be appointed Chairman of the Committee for this meeting.

(F. BUNTING, ESQ., CHAIRMAN)

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Gleaden complimented Mr. Bunting on his appointment as Chairman.

Mr. Bunting responded appropriately and paid tribute to the service rendered on behalf of the Committee by the past Chairman Mr. W. F. Hobson. Members echoed Mr. Bunting's sentiments and joined with him in wishing Mr. Hobson well for the future.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T. A. F. Barnes, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

35. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

In relation to Minute No. 29, (Letter from Mr. F. Bunting - Ennerdale II Scheme Proposals), the officers undertook to look into this matter and write to Mr. Bunting following their enquiries.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

At their meeting on 16th June, 1980, (Minute No. 9(3)) the Authority had resolved, inter alia,

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980".

The next meeting of the Regional Committee was due to take place on 28th July, 1980, and members were advised to submit any comments upon the proposed review to either the Chairman, Mr. Bunting, or to the Director of Administration.

RESOLVED:

That in any reorganisation of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees some form of representation from the Derwent and West Cumbria area be maintained.

37. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE -
RESIGNATION OF MR. W. F. HOBSON

It was formally reported that Mr. W. F. Hobson who had served on the Committee as Chairman since the inaugural meeting in June, 1974, had submitted his resignation.

In view of the impending review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees it was considered inappropriate to nominate a successor to Mr. Hobson to serve on the Committee, at this time.

38. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE -
RESIGNATION OF MR. S. G. PAYNE

It was reported that Mr. S. G. Payne who had served on the Committee since October, 1975, had submitted his resignation and his letter to this effect was placed before the Committee. The Committee expressed their appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Payne to the work of the Committee over the past four and a half years.

In view of the impending review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees it was considered inappropriate to nominate a successor to Mr. Payne to serve on the Committee, at this time.

39. RIVER DERWENT, EFFECTS OF A66 RUN-OFF

In accordance with Minute No. 26(2) of the meeting held on 31st March, 1980, consideration was given to a report which detailed the results of investigations carried out in relation to the effects of sulphide pollution from the A66 on the River Derwent.

The report explained that the condition of the various discharges from the A66 system and of the two tributaries primarily affected by sulphide contamination (Tom Rudd Beck and Dub Wath Beck) had been monitored regularly since the problem first became apparent in 1976. An earlier report to the Committee on 26th June, 1978, had mentioned that considerable variations occurred in the levels of sulphide present in the discharges from the roadworks and in the receiving streams. Subsequent sampling had shown that this was still the case. The general picture was of increased contamination during periods of wet weather, falling to low levels during dry spells. It was assumed that these cyclic changes were due to the pattern of discharge of heavily contaminated groundwater from those areas where de-bogging and subsequent infilling with slag had taken place. During dry spells there was little movement of groundwater in and out of these areas and thus little contamination of the streams, however the concentration

of sulphides in the water which was present within the de-bogged area increased as a result of chemical and/or biological breakdown of the slag and with the onset of wet weather the contaminated groundwater was flushed out and discharged to the streams.

Recent inspection and analytical results of the routine monitoring had indicated that no significant change had taken place in the overall situation concerning the sulphide contamination problem and there was no evidence to conflict with earlier conclusions that the effect on fish stocks was restricted to the two tributaries, Tom Rudd Beck and Dub Wath Beck. It was, however, considered that smolts should be able to pass downstream through the affected zones, particularly in Tom Rudd Beck. Likewise there should be no hazard to fish migrating up the Derwent.

Both the Authority and the Department of Transport were alert to the problem and the type of slag used in this instance for infilling would not again be used where similar conditions to those prevailing in the affected area occurred.

40. TAKING OF SALMON AND SEA TROUT IN SEA-FISH NETS
AT FLIMBY, WEST CUMBRIA

A report was submitted which explained the measures taken by the Authority to alleviate the problems caused in recent years at Flimby, West Cumbria, as a result of salmon and sea trout being taken, from time to time, in nets ostensibly set to take sea fish, which had resulted in the need for extensive surveillance and enforcement activity by bailiffs in the area during much of the Summer.

The report listed the arrangements which would operate on an experimental basis for the duration of the 1980 fishing season and which had been agreed at a meeting on 10th April, 1980 between officers of the Authority, the MP for Workington and the fishermen concerned. The arrangements had been confirmed by the Chairman of the Authority on 15th April, 1980. It was explained that the object of the arrangements was to overcome the suspicions which had developed between the fishermen and the Authority staff. The Committee was advised that details of the instructions to bailiffs and advice to the netsmen on the implementation of the arrangements had been prepared in draft and forwarded to the MP. A number of comments had been made by the MP and were under consideration by the officers.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee be kept fully informed on the situation and the outcome of discussions to deal with the problem.

RECOMMENDED:

That the officers look into the possibility of finding a permanent solution to the problem by suitable amending legislation.

41 EEC DIRECTIVES ON THE QUALITY OF FRESHWATERS NEEDING PROTECTION OR IMPROVEMENT IN ORDER TO SUPPORT FISH LIFE

In accordance with Minute No. 30 of the meeting held on 31st March, 1980, a report was submitted which detailed the results of further investigations carried out in respect of the quality of water at Lostrigg Beck.

The sampling programme had revealed that Lostrigg Beck did not meet the criteria laid down for water to be classified as either salmonid or cyprinid, due in the main to the average figure for total suspended solids in this water being 57 mg/l. compared with the average figure included in the EEC directives of 25 mg/l. There was, however, no reason to believe that the figure recorded for Lostrigg Beck caused any substantial impact on the fisheries. Periodic sampling of Lostrigg Beck would continue on a routine basis together with inspections of all open-cast mining sites within the area to ensure that reasonable pollution-prevention measures were carried out, although it was not considered justifiable for further resources to be deployed, or for sampling programmes to be intensified, merely to meet the EEC directives.

42. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

A report was submitted setting out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for such offences during 1979/80. The report also summarised the offences and prosecutions within the Committee's area during the same period.

43. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee which included river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, Holmwrangle hatchery, biological work, offshore netting, fish mortalities and Thirlmere - Derwent releases.

Since the report had been written, a serious fish mortality had taken place in the River Esk during the week commencing 16th June. The river from Dalegarth to the estuary had been affected. Investigations into the cause of this mortality were continuing but it was thought that the cause was a natural one as the result of low pH levels in the river following the heavy rainfalls which had flushed out the peat bogs. The affects of this mortality could be quite serious for the future of the River Esk.

Concern was expressed regarding two letters published in the 'Whitehaven News' and the 'Cumberland Times and Star' on 19th June, both alleging that large numbers of dead salmon parr and minnows had been seen on 12th June in the River Ehen just below the weir at Ennerdale. The letters suggested that the mortality had apparently been caused as a result of the fish having been sucked along the pipes which were used for pumping compensation water from Ennerdale Lake into the River Ehen.

The Area Fisheries Officer explained that he had seen the reports. Pumping had commenced on 10th June and no fish had been killed on this occasion. Following the appearance of the letters in the press an immediate investigation had been carried out but no dead fish had been seen. The fish screens had been in place when the pumps were operated. The site of this alleged mortality would be monitored when next the pumps were operated.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

44. BRAITHWAITE BECK - OIL POLLUTION

Concern was expressed in relation to a recent oil pollution of the Newlands (Braithwaite) Beck and Bassenthwaite Lake which had resulted in a fish mortality.

The officers explained that the oil had seeped into the beck via a foul sewer, following the unforeseen practice of an underground pipe to a storage tank at certain premises. The actual quantity of oil which reached the beck was small although cleaning-up operators had taken a week and would be paid for by the owners of the premises concerned. The question of compensation for the fish killed was still to be discussed with the owners of the premises who would also be notified of the dangers and liabilities in respect of unbunded oil storage installations.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
NORTH CUMBRIA
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Item No. 4D

24TH JUNE, 1980

Present: E. P. Ecroyd, Esq. (Chairman)
A. E. I. Bell, Esq. J. S. Marshall, Esq.
E. Cave, Esq. Wm. McKenna, Esq.
T. Cousins, Esq. R. K. Nicholson, Esq.
Dr. I. J. Faulkner J. Thompson, Esq.

29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. T. A. F. Barnes, Mr. B. Irving, Mr. G. Mann and Mr. A. Richardson.

30. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April, 1980, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE -
RESIGNATION OF DR. I. J. FAULKNER

It was reported that Dr. I. J. Faulkner who had served on the Committee since April, 1975 had indicated his intention, to retire from the Committee for health reasons after the October 1980, meeting.

Dr. Faulkner himself advised the Committee that he had taken this step as he had found it increasingly difficult to attend meetings from his home in Harrogate, particularly during the winter. He had enjoyed serving on the Committee and would always be available should his advice or opinion on fisheries matters be required.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman paid tribute to Dr. Faulkner for his service with the Committee and wished him well for the future.

In view of the impending review of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees (Minute 34) it was considered inappropriate to nominate a successor to Dr. Faulkner to serve on the Committee, at this time.

32. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

A report was submitted setting out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for such offences during 1979/80. The report also summarised the offences and prosecutions within the Committee's area during the same period.

The Committee expressed concern at the low sum awarded to the Authority in total costs by the courts for the cases prosecuted.

RESOLVED:

That a report containing details of the number of convictions obtained in relation to the total number of fisheries prosecutions undertaken by the Authority throughout the Committee area during 1979/80, be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

That in all cases involving prosecution for an alleged fishery offence, by or on behalf of the Authority, the actual costs incurred by the Authority in bringing the case before the courts be submitted by the prosecutor in an endeavour to obtain reimbursement of realistic costs for the Authority.

33. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee which included river conditions and fishing, migratory fish movement, Holmwrangle hatchery, fish mortalities and disease, management work, poaching, British Gas Corporation - pipeline project and Annan Boro boundary stone - Solway estuary.

Concern was expressed that the channel of the Solway was now south of the 'Alter Stone', which marked the south east boundary of the Royal Borough of Annan's 'Charter Area' and that Scottish haaf netsmen were now fishing in English waters which were administered by the Authority, without the necessary Authority licences. The officers agreed that this was now becoming a perennial problem and explained the current legal position following the granting of the existant Interim Interdict by the Scottish Court to the Borough in 1978. One of the problems still lay in identifying the English/Scottish boundary on the Solway. Although MAFF were apparently unwilling to make a ruling on this point, a review of the Scottish legislation was currently taking place and representations had been made to the review body requesting that some action be taken by the Scottish side in identifying the boundary.

34. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

It was reported that at their meeting on 16th June, 1980 (Minute No. 9(3)) the Authority had resolved, inter alia,

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June, 1980."

The next meeting of the Regional Committee was due to take place on 28th July, 1980, and members were advised to submit any comments upon the proposed review to either the Chairman, Mr. Ecroyd, or to the Director of Administration.

RESOLVED:

That in any reorganisation of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees some form of representation from the North Cumbria area be maintained.

35. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960
EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That because of the confidential nature of the following item, the public be excluded from the meeting during its consideration.

36. DRAFT NETTING RIGHTS - RIVER EDEN

Further to Minute No. 28 of this Committee on 1st April, 1980, discussion took place in relation to a table and graph, submitted at the request of the Committee, which detailed the annual draft net catches, expressed as percentages of the total Eden in-river catches, for the years for which data was available, (1959-1979).

F2/A9

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS
FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30TH JUNE, 1980

Present:

J. M. Croft, Esq. (Chairman)
R. Barratt, Esq. J. H. Fell, Esq.
R. A. Challenor, Esq. A. L. Harris, Esq.
H. B. Whittam, Esq.

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Mr. W. Bailey, Mr. T. A. F. Barnes, Major N. J. Clarkson Webb, Dr. J. V. Dyer, Mr. R. Harper, Mr. G. Mann, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. G. Wilson.

44. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the substitution of the word "single" for the words "two tier", in line three of the recommendation contained in Minute No. 32 (Rod and Line Licence Duties), the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th April, 1980 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45. ARRANGEMENT FOR CANOEING ON THE RIVER LUNE AT HALTON DURING 1980

A report was submitted which detailed the dates reserved for canoeing during the 1980 salmon fishing season on the Halton water below Forge Weir. The sum of £66 had been paid to the Authority on behalf of the canoeing interests in respect of fishing permit revenue estimated to be lost as a result of the arrangements, which allowed canoeing to take place on six dates during May, June, September and October, 1980.

46. FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

A report was submitted setting out the fishing offences and prosecutions undertaken by the Authority for such offences during 1979/80. The report also summarised the offences and prosecutions within the Committee's area during the same period.

RECOMMENDED:

That on future occasions the annual report on fishing offences and prosecutions, incorporate details of all unsuccessful prosecutions relating to fisheries.

47. REPORT BY THE AREA FISHERIES OFFICER ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES

The Area Fisheries Officer presented his report on fisheries activities within the area since the last meeting of the Committee which included river conditions and fishing, fish monitoring stations, Middleton hatchery, cage rearing of smolts for the River Leven,

stocking by angling associations and by the Authority, fish mortalities, British Gas Corporation - pipeline project, and Rivers Leven and Kent - fish distribution survey May 1980.

Concern was expressed about the delay in bringing the Halton fish counter on the River Lune at Forge Weir into operation. The Area Fisheries Officer advised the Committee that testing of the instrumentation was currently taking place but there was a problem of noise on the instrumentation. This would have to be rectified before the counter could be brought into use as too much noise could lead to fish being counted erroneously. There was also a shortage of staff to carry out the necessary work. It was, however, hoped to have the instrumentation to the central counter working in the near future.

The Area Fisheries Officer undertook to notify the Secretary of the Kendal branch, of Northern Anglers providing the recent stocking of the Lancaster and Kendal Canal with carp. In response to questions about the 'Ansafone' service at the Halton Office, the Committee was informed that the Post Office were in the process of allocating a Halton number to this service. Once this had been done the service would again come into operation.

It was reported that following a Public Inquiry held at Barrow-in-Furness Town Hall on 10th June, 1980, the Authority had been granted a Drought Order operative from Saturday 14th June, which would expire on 2nd September, 1980 in respect of the River Duddon. This Order would allow the Authority to maintain a residual flow of 3.25 million gallons per day at Duddon Hall instead of making releases from Seathwaite Tarn in order to maintain the usual prescribed residual flows at Ulpha. The purpose of the Order is to enable Seathwaite Tarn to be replenished. Since the Order had been granted, it had been unnecessary for the Authority to make use of its provisions, due to the recent heavy rainfalls in that area.

Concern having been expressed that numbers of dead sea trout had been observed in the River Duddon following the recent heavy rainfalls, the Area Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that although this was the first intimation he had received of such deaths in this river, a similar occurrence had recently been reported on the River Esk and that both occurrences could probably be attributed to accumulations of humic acids being flushed out of the peat bogs following the heavy rainfalls, leading to a fall in pH levels in the rivers. This was a natural hazard which was liable to take place in that area after a time of drought.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and approved.

48. PEDDER POTS RESERVOIR

Further to Minute No. 38 of the meeting of the Committee on 10th April, 1980; the report requested would not be available until the outcome of a meeting between the prospective purchasers, Lancaster City council and the Authority was known, arrangements for which were in hand.

49. REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

It was reported that at their meeting on 16th June, 1980, (Minute No. 9(3)) the Authority had resolved, inter alia,

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980".

The next meeting of the Regional Committee was due to take place on 28th July, 1980, and members were advised to submit any comments upon the proposed review to either the Chairman, Mr. Croft, or to the Director of Administration.

The Committee requested that the Director of Administration write to all members explaining the reason for the proposed review of the Local Committees and inviting members comments.

RESOLVED:

That in any reorganisation of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees some form of representation for each major river system within the whole of the Northern area should be incorporated into any new Committee structure.

50. FISH TRAP AT BROADRAINE WEIR, RIVER LUNE

The Regional Fisheries Officer informed the Committee that the existing Approval in respect of the operation of the Broadrairie fish trap (fixed engine) had been extended by MAFF on 4th November, 1977 for a further period of five years from 17th November, 1977. The Approval permitted the use of the trap, inter alia, for the catching of salmon and migratory trout for the purpose of artificial propagation during the period between 31st October and the following 1st January. Under the new River Lune fishery byelaws, the angling season for salmon would terminate on 15th October and accordingly fish trapping could start for artificial propagation purposes on 16th October. MAFF had advised that the terms of the existing Approval could not be varied and that for trapping to commence on this date application for a new Approval would be required.

RECOMMENDED:

That application be made to MAFF for an Approval to permit the use of the trap at Broadrairie from 16th October in each and every year during the currency of the present River Lune fishery byelaws on condition that when the use of this facility is contemplated there should be prior consultation between the Authority's Fisheries Department and the Lune and Wyre Fisheries Association.

51. ANGLING BY ROD AND LINE - CATCH RETURNS

Concern was expressed at the failure of anglers fishing for salmon or migratory trout within the Authority's area to complete catch returns in accordance with the present Authority fishery byelaw 23. It was accordingly suggested that in the next review of the fishery byelaws a new byelaw be made that would require those owners of fisheries who permitted angling for fish of these species to take place on their waters, to complete a return on behalf of the anglers whom they had permitted to fish, it being felt that this measure would enable the Fisheries Department to exercise a greater control over their receipt of catch returns. It was explained that this might not be possible under the present fisheries legislation as paragraph 32 of Schedule 3 to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 suggested that byelaws could only be made to require those persons actually fishing for salmon, trout or freshwater fish to complete catch returns.

F2/A13

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Mr. W. F. Hobson who had served as Chairman of the Derwent and West Cumbria Local Committee since its inaugural meeting in June 1974, resigned from that Committee in May 1980. Mr. Hobson served on this Committee as an ex-officio member in his capacity as Chairman of the Local Committee.
2. At the meeting of the Derwent and West Cumbria Committee on 23rd June 1980 (Minute No. 33) Mr. F. Bunting was appointed Chairman of that Committee.

F2/B1

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1980/81

1. On 16th June, 1980, (Minute No.9) the Authority approved the membership of the Regional Committee as set out below in paragraph 4.
2. Members will note that there are four vacancies on the Committee for Members of the Authority, and the Chairman of the Authority has indicated his intention to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the following new appointments be made:-

Appointed By

E.H. Funk	Lancashire County Council
M. Wareing	Greater Manchester District Councils

3. As reported in Agenda Item No.5, Mr. W.F. Hobson the former Chairman of the Derwent and West Cumbria Committee has resigned from that Committee and at the meeting of that Committee on 23rd June, 1980, Mr. F. Bunting was appointed Chairman for that meeting.

4. Nominated to the Authority by

T.A.F. Barnes	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
T.M. Farrer	" " " " " "
R.A. Parkin	Secretary of State for the Environment
Major J.G.W. Skipwith	" " " " " "
G. Mann (ex officio)*	" " " " " "
A. Richardson (ex officio)*	" " " " " "
Mrs. W. Lomas	Greater Manchester County Council
L.B. Williams	Merseyside County Council
4 vacancies (for Members of the Authority)	

A.G.R. Brown)	
J.H. Fell)	
J. Johnson)	Appointed as persons interested in
Wm. McKenna)	fisheries in the area.
G. Wilson)	

J.S. Bailey (ex officio) Chairman, Mersey and Weaver Local Committee
F. Bunting (ex officio) Chairman, Derwent & West Cumbria Local Committee
J.M. Croft (ex officio) Chairman, Lune, Wyre and Furness Local Committee
E.P. Ecroyd (ex officio) Chairman, North Cumbria Local Committee
R.D. Houghton (ex officio) Chairman, South Lancashire Local Committee

* Note: Mr.Mann and Mr.Richardson are ex officio members of the Committee by virtue of their positions as Chairman of the Authority and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively.

5. Pending the outcome of the review of Local Advisory Committees referred to in Agenda Item 7, the Chairman of the Authority has approved the continuing membership of Messrs. Bailey, Bunting, Croft, Ecroyd and Houghton, as persons interested in fisheries in the area, as they are currently unable to serve in an 'ex officio' capacity.

F2/A14

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980REVIEW OF LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. On 16th June 1980 the Authority considered the appointment of committees for the Authority year 1980-81, and on appointing the Regional Committee, resolved as follows:-

"That (i) in the context of stringent cash limits, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee review the effectiveness of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committees in the light of experience gained over the past six years to establish whether they meet the consultative requirements placed on the Authority in relation to fisheries, satisfactorily, and report thereon to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, and (ii) until the Authority has taken a decision upon the report, no Local Fisheries Advisory Committees be appointed, following the meetings of those Committees in June 1980".

2. To assist the Committee with the review, the officers have prepared this paper trying to deal with the effectiveness of the Local Committees as objectively as possible, as they see it.
3. The principle of Local Committees was established in 1973, the Authority then seeing the Committees as meeting the requirements of Section 18 of the Water Act 1973 (now reiterated in Section 28 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975) in relation to consultation with persons interested in fisheries. The statutory provisions are as follows:-

"(1) It shall be the duty of every water authority -

- (a) to maintain, improve and develop the salmon fisheries, trout fisheries, freshwater fisheries and eel fisheries in the area for which they exercise functions under this Act;
- (b) to establish advisory committees of persons who appear to them to be interested in any such fisheries in that area and consult them as to the manner in which the authority are to discharge their duty under paragraph (a) above.

- (2) The duty to establish advisory committees imposed by paragraph (b) of section (i) above is a duty to establish a regional advisory committee for the whole of the area mentioned in paragraph (a) of that sub section and such local advisory committees as the water authority consider necessary to represent the interests referred to in paragraph (b) of that sub section in different parts of that area".

4. The Committees originally established were the South and West Cumberland (now known as Derwent and West Cumbria) (7 members), Eden and District (now known as North Cumbria) (9 members), Lune, Wyre and Furness (9 members), South Lancashire (6 members), and Mersey and Weaver (7 members).

On guidance from MAFF the Authority initially aimed to restrict membership of each of the Local Committees to a maximum of 7, although it was accepted that there might be cases for variation in special instances. The present total membership of each Committee including three ex officio members on each is:

Derwent and West Cumbria	13
North Cumbria	14
Lune, Wyre and Furness	15
South Lancashire	12
Mersey and Weaver	12

5. The Local Committees meet quarterly, normally in January, April, June or July, and October of each year. Together with corresponding quarterly meetings of the Regional Committee, there is a total of 24 fishery committee meetings annually, in addition to which special meetings are called from time to time to deal with particular matters. Derwent and West Cumbria normally meet at Cockermouth, North Cumbria at Carlisle, Lune, Wyre and Furness at Levens, South Lancashire at Preston and Mersey and Weaver at Dawson House.
6. Officer attendance at Local Committees can well be Manager of the Rivers Division, Regional Fisheries Officer, Area Fisheries Officer, Assistant Solicitor, Senior Administrative Assistant, with officers from Operations, Finance, Resource Planning and Scientific Services attending when any particular items are relevant to that discipline. The administration of the fisheries committees takes virtually the whole of the time of the Senior Administrative Assistant and it is estimated that the Regional Fisheries Officer spends a minimum of 60 working days each year preparing for, and attending, Local Committees. Similarly, the two Area Fisheries Officers are spending a minimum equivalent number of working days on Committee matters. The officers are of the opinion that a high proportion of this time could be more gainfully redirected towards the fulfillment of the Authority's statutory duties in Section 18(1)(a) (see para. 3 above) particularly as the fisheries staff maintain regular contact with the existing Consultative Associations.
7. It is suggested from time to time that too many officers attend these meetings, but such attendance is arranged as Members expect any officer who has had an input into any item to be present in order to be able to deal satisfactorily with questions and provide additional information. In particular, Local Committee members have commented that the administrative input is not necessary and in fact is restrictive, and that what is required is a 'get together' with the fisheries staff. It is, however, considered necessary for administrative and legal staff to attend the meetings, as the Local Committees are 'deemed' Sub-Committees of the Authority and as such must comply with the Rules of the Authority (e.g. by producing formal recommendations complying with established Authority policies) in the same way as all other committees.

8. The officer man/hours and costs expended in maintaining the Local Committees, which purport to be consultative bodies and have no executive power, in relation to those expended in maintaining the executive committees of the Authority is out of all proportion. Initially the Committees were considered to be a suitable means by which the Authority could maintain consultation with fisheries interests throughout the area, but the situation has now changed materially in that the Local Committees now see themselves as watch dogs for the anglers, reluctant to accept Authority decisions on policies if different from their views. This lack of identification by the Local Committees with the Authority contrasts with the other committees of the Authority.
9. When the Committees were originally established the then Chairman of the Regional Committee invited the various fisheries associations throughout the area to suggest members for the committees, the invitation being the prerogative of the Authority, but demands for additional representation have resulted in the increases in committee membership set out in paragraph 4.
10. Many of the items which come before the Local Committees are common to each Committee and are therefore discussed at five meetings, the Regional Committee finally discussing the item once more. It is not unknown for there to be five varying views expressed on the common items and this does not facilitate the Regional Committee's function.
11. Since the Committees were constituted the Authority has established a Recreation Sub-Committee and many of the matters which the Local Committees see as their prerogative can really be classed as recreational matters, e.g. the improvement of angling facilities at low cost. The Authority's function in relation to fisheries is to maintain, improve and develop fisheries which can conflict with a desire for improved angling facilities, although in many cases improvement etc. of fisheries must improve the angling. The fishery statutes commencing in 1861 have all had as their basis the prevention of harmful exploitation of fisheries.
12. It is not suggested that it is wrong for anglers to seek to improve their facilities or for consultative bodies to make their views known to the Authority. This, however, could be achieved by meetings between the fishery staff and the consultative associations where views could be exchanged freely and readily without those bodies having to be in any way part of the Authority's organisation. This is the climate in which many members have expressed a wish to operate. This may well be a better method of obtaining local views on fisheries rather than going through the motions as at present of having Local Advisory Committees, with the restrictive effect the Authority Rules place on both members and officers.
13. There are the following alternatives for the Committee to consider:
 - (1) Maintain the Local Committees as at present.
 - (2) Abolish the Local Committees and rely on consultation through the fisheries staff, with the Consultative Associations, and an annual formal liaison meeting.
 - (3) Establish a modified form of local committees, possibly in accordance with the existing operational fisheries areas.

- NB. 1. The formal views of the local committees are set out in the minutes of their last meetings as follows:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>
Mersey and Weaver	18th June	35
South Lancashire	19th June	35
Derwent & West Cumbria	23rd June	36
North Cumbria	24th June	34
Lune, Wyre and Furness	30th June	49

2. Representations from individual local committee members are attached hereto, (RFAC only).

"Orchard Farm"
Whittingham Lane,
Barton,
Nr Preston.

2nd July, 1980.

Dear Mr Mutch

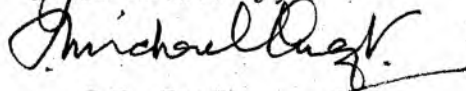
At the Lune, Wyre and Furness F.A.C. meeting recently, an oral report was made on the request from the authority that the role and number of local fishery advisory committees should be considered now that they have been in being for six years. It is mainly in the field of economy that this request has been made and, as Chairman of the Committee, I have to put forward the views at the next Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee on the 28th July. It is unlikely that any further local committee meetings will be held until a decision by the authority has been made, following the meeting of the R.F.O. on the 28th July.

Following the meeting, the members present (after the retirement of the officers) discussed the matter fully, and agreed on the following proposals subject to any comments that the absent members may wish to make. If you have any comments I should therefore like them as soon as possible. If I don't hear from you I will take it that you agree with the general principles of the points made.

- (1) That only three meetings be held per year instead of four.
- (2) That there be three local committees instead of five.
- (3) (a) That this Committee remain as at present, that the two northerly committees combine, and the two southerly committees combine.

(b) Should it be thought desirable then this committee would take under its wing the Cumbrian Esk and tributaries.
- (3) That the fishery committees consist of purely fishery members and that the recreation members, water quality members and drainage representatives be either asked to resign, or be appointed on more appropriate committees of the authority.
- (4) It was also felt that often too many officers are present, members were grateful of their contributions, but for instance, three fishery officers at a local meeting does not seem to be warranted.
- (5) Whilst it may be thought that there may be some merit in only two local committees, it was felt that the area would be so great, that the whole purpose of the 'local' aspect would be lost.

Yours sincerely,



J.M. Croft
Chairman, L.W.F.A.C.

From: Professor W.E. Kershaw, CMG., VRD., MD., DSc.

HESKETH BANK 4299

MILL FARM

HESKETH BANK

PRESTON PR4 6RA

9th July 1980

R. Houghton Esq.,
Old Hall,
Whittingham Lane,
Broughton, PRESTON PR3 5DB.

Dear Roger,

I write in connection with the suggestion of the Water Authority that they might disband the local fisheries advisory committees. I think this is a most ill-advised step.

Since joining the South Ribble Advisory Committee some years ago, I have been most impressed by the effectiveness of the arrangement of a regional committee with its four local committees, by the way that the business is done and by the confidence that has built up between the people who are interested in fisheries and the central administration. No-one could complain in fisheries at least of any "remoteness".

Others can speak of the appropriateness of the representation of both game and coarse fisheries. All interests are adequately represented. This would I think hardly be possible if the local committees were disbanded.

On each of the local committees, there is one person appointed who may or may not be a fisherman. Dr. Pugh Thomas and I are not fishermen but our contribution concerns the general environment in which fishing is carried out. We have also interests in recreation in general. We have a scientific background which in any Government body, with its scientific officers, is an important source of scientific initiative and comment. I have had many years' experience of serving on similar Government research bodies and know the constructive part played by "independents". This would be lost if the local committees were disbanded.

The public image of the water authorities is not good. I would have thought they would have been anxious to preserve the kind of good will which exists in the fisheries administration through the regional and local committees.

I do not understand why this suggestion has been made. It cannot be on the grounds of financial economy since all that is involved is the travelling expenses of the members of the local committees. These are trivial and I know that on the Ribble Committee, most of the members do not claim their expenses.

Yours sincerely,

cc. T. Barnes, Esq.

Mr. G. Mutch

Asst. Director of Administration
N.W. Water Auth.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY RECEIVED	
20 JUN 1980	
ORDERED BY	A DEPT.
APPROVED BY	gm
FILE	

19. 6. 80.

Dear Sir

Rationalisation of Local Advisory Committees.

We have spoken recently about the re-structuring of the Advisory Committees with the object of (a) reducing costs (b) producing a broader based and more balanced form of consultation. I had already made my views known to Mr. Crowther and now I have discussed the subject in outline with Mr. Kelso.

I now give you a summary of my thoughts on this topic but in doing so I should add that they are given with the best of intentions, and I trust that you will interpret them in the same constructive spirit in which they have been written.

1. Representation.

The existing structure seems to be based essentially on geographic representation further supplemented by specialists such as Land Drainage and Water Quality representatives.

Experience shows that this leads to parochialism and a reluctance to take the broader view. While there is some merit in retaining geographic representation it need not

be so restrictive and surely there is not a case for a member to represent such confined interests as one Association or Group. Equally I find it difficult to go along with places for commercial interests. Integration of the Committees would reconcile these requirements particularly if the combination was maintained at a similar size (say 10-15 members)

Of equal if not more importance is the standard of representation. It seems essential that to achieve across the board participation a member should be:

- (i) committed to the principle and need for consultation with the Authority.
- (ii) actively associated with fisheries and/or fishing.
- (iii) interested in the full spectrum of topics normally considered by this level Committee.

If consideration can be given to all these qualifications in the selection of members then discussions must be broader based and involve more meaningful consultative procedure.

2. Selection

I am only familiar with the West Cumbria procedures. Initially I believe Mr Watson delegated the

selection to Mr Hobson who selected the Committee by local discussion among a ~~very~~ particular circle. Since then replacements have been found by the West-Cumberland Federation of Anglers perhaps because throughout Mr Hobson has also been the Chairman of this Body. I do not wish to appear critical of this arrangement although it is relevant to add that it can hardly fulfill this function in future since it is now very nearly a defunct organisation.

It is clear that it is impractical to achieve truly democratic representation from a population of individual anglers spread throughout the new catch area. We are faced therefore with some form of 'old boy' selection which has perhaps the advantage of bringing the more interested, and provided the qualifications set out in (1) are met it seems that this system in one form or another has to be accepted. I do however believe that the Officers should exert some influence but above all ability and interest to do the job ought to be paramount.

3. Regional integration.

Integration of adjacent areas to say three Committees in place of five has the single merit of retaining most of those members who have hitherto shown an interest. However once committed to the principle of re-structuring and rationalisation surely there is much to commend the more

logical yet radical change to two Committees representing the North & South regions. Such a departure would significantly reduce costs and go a long way towards eliminating parochialism. Every effort should be made to limit membership and preferably members should be drawn as evenly as possible from the region as a whole. By selection procedure it ought to be possible to avoid the necessity of specific representation for subjects such as Land Drainage and Water Quality. Specialised knowledge of local issues is best catered for by power of cooption.

The situation concerning existing Chairman is likely to be sensitive but hopefully can be classified as a new structure emerges.

4 Administration.

The three-monthly cycle of meetings are essential and should be retained as long as economic pressures can be resisted.

Members' travelling times would inevitably be longer and to deal adequately with extended agendas it would seem sensible to allocate a complete day to each meeting.

This would also provide the opportunity for papers to be presented by their authors and followed by informative discussion.

The existing arrangements for minutes will not meet the requirements of a rationalised structure which will place considerable onus on members to prepare themselves adequately for meetings.

Minutes should be more comprehensive and as a minimum provide the record of the salient points culminating in the resolution. They should be sent to Members not more than about one week following the meeting, so giving time for Members to take any appropriate action including their responsibility to communicate.

Agendas, together with papers ought to be received by Members at least fourteen days prior to a meeting and where major issues are concerned even longer.

In this note I have only touched upon the bare essentials of change as it might affect Members. I realise that there would be much detail to be covered before such changes could be implemented, in particular the agreement of the case by Members justifying such a proposal.

Perhaps it is all a long way off but I firmly believe that there are fundamental weaknesses in our present system which act against its overall effectiveness and this view is apparently shared.

Yours faithfully
A. G. G. G.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY. RECEIVED	
16 JUL 1980	
BOOKED TO	A DEPT.
ACTION BY	G.M.
REF.	101/07/08

30 Dent Road
Mirehouse
Whitehaven
Cumbria
10.7.80

Dear Mr. Mutch

You will be aware of the fact that on the occasion of the last Derwent & South West Cumbria Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting I was nominated to take the chair vacated by Mr W.F. Hobson & committee upheld the nomination.

My opening remarks to committee included comment on the achievement of the committee which in my opinion had not attained the status or provided the necessary results with respect to fisheries for which it was intended. With this in mind I suggested that maybe N.W.W.A should be investigating the present structure of fishery consultative bodies to determine whether or not some rationalisation was required. The officers of the Authority had we found come to the meeting with this in mind, consequently after brief discussion (it not being opportune to enter into detail) members were requested to contribute to further debate on rationalisation by supplying you with comments & suggestions.

I am convinced that advisory committees have an important role to play within the structure of N.W.W.A fisheries. The voluntary time & effort by members of the advisory committees over the last five years justifies respect & must not be lost sight of by N.W.W.A when considering restructuring.

In my opinion any restructure must provide a mechanism whereby anglers are assured that the system provides the facility that their local fishery problems can be dealt with by representatives who are fully conversant with the views of both N.W.W.A & local anglers & their associations. Officers of the authority after attending meetings over the last five years must have formulated opinions based on impressions created at these meetings. I personally would respect the judgement of the officers & consider this could provide an accurate bench mark for initial discussion on rationalisation.

In the event of restructure the status of area chairman may change somewhat, present chairman may be acting as fishery representative controlled by some other chairman. It may happen that restructuring would reduce the present number of committee requirements & some present member would no longer be participants. If restructure is going to be beneficial for fisheries & this happens ~~of restructuring~~ it is to be hoped that personal feelings do not stand in the way of progress however sensitive people may feel.

I do not wish to attempt to provide a complete solution to the difficult task of rationalisation but the points I have made in this letter are an attempt to contribute to something which is of extreme interest to me.

My final comments would be:-

1. That if some form of amalgamation takes place the amalgamation should be those areas that have common angling interests.
2. The size of newly formed bodies (committees) shall

be very carefully considered.

Membership should consist of those who in the past have indicated their dedication towards the functioning of the present system by their contribution in committee debate, placing matters on agenda, & of most importance attendance record.

A committee formed on these lines should consist of experienced people with expertise in both fishery & administration matters.

An attempt should be made to strengthen the authority of a rationalised fishery machinery & enable detail of discussion & reasoning behind recommendations to be utilised to the fullest in fishery management.

b. At the moment much (if not all) very useful material arising as a result of advisory committee debate gets completely lost between local & regional committees, resulting in advisory committees less of credibility. Any new organisation which does not rectify this matter must be a failure.

Yours faithfully
Y. Bunting

HOUGHTON, CRAVEN & DICKSONS

SOLICITORS

(Incorporating HOUGHTON, CRAVEN, PLANT & CO., AND
BUCK AND DICKSONS)

E. C. Dickson, D.L.

A. N. Craven, M.A.(Cantab.)

D. C. Y. Dickson

J. A. Woods, M.A., LL.B.(Cantab.) LL.M.

J. A. Ferguson, M.A.(Cantab.)

D. B. Forrest, LL.B.(Birm.)

J. R. Lord, M.A.(Cantab.)

Consultants:

D. A. S. Houghton, O.B.E., M.A.(Oxon.) D.L.

R. D. Houghton, M.A.(Oxon.)

13, 15 & 17 WINCKLEY STREET

PRESTON PR1 2BJ

LANCASHIRE

Telephones: 51301-5 & 54653-5
STD Code 0772

RDE/CT

Our Ref.....

Your Ref.....

11th July, 1980

Dear Sir,

Re: Local Fishery Advisory Committees

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY RECEIVED	
14 JUL 1980	
BOOKED TO	DEPT. A
ADJ. CN BY	SM
FILE REL.	101/07/03

As Chairman of the South Lancashire Fishery Advisory Committee, I was most disturbed to hear from your representative at the recent meeting that there was an intention to review the functions of the Local Committees, with the probability that they would be disbanded. If indeed this is the intention, then I respectfully suggest that there could be no greater mistake on the part of the Authority, since these Committees are an essential link between the vast angling public in the area on the one hand, and the Authority on the other hand, and in any case Section 18 of the Water Act makes it the duty of every Authority to establish Advisory Committees. The Authority might well argue that one Advisory Committee for the whole area is all that is necessary, but I would strongly disagree with any such view, since not only is the area of the Authority a huge one, but the importance of Local Advisory Committees is contained in the word "Local", which means that the members of the Committee are all concerned with a particular watershed and therefore can speak from local knowledge which - with great respect - the Authority does not always have because of its very size.

I don't know what the intention is, or why the suggestion has been made, but if it is that there should be only north and south Advisory Committees, then I would be strongly against this, ^{also} as the areas covered would be too large, and there could not be the same local representation as there is now on the Committees which deal with specific watersheds.

I enclose a copy of a strong protest from Professor Kershaw, and I am expecting a similar protest from one or two more members of my Committee before the Regional Meeting on July 28th.

Director of Administration,
North West Water Authority
Dawson House,
Great Sankey,
Nr. Warrington.

/Cont'd over

/Cont'd.....

In the meantime, I sincerely hope that the Authority will think again about this very important matter.

Yours truly,

Alan Houghton

.....
Roger D. Houghton.

Chairman South Lancashire Felling Advisory Committee.

From E. P. ECROYD

Telephone:
ARMATHWAITE 242
(STD Code 069 92)

LOW HOUSE
ARMATHWAITE
CARLISLE
CA4 9ST

Director of Administration,
North West Water Authority,
Dawson House,
Great Sankey,
Warrington.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY	
RECEIVED	
15 JUL 80	
BOOKED	A
TO	
ADVICE	gm/ews
BY	
FILE	101/07/03

24th July, 1980.

Dear Sir,

Review of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees

I am sorry not to have written to you sooner, but being Chairman of the River Eden and District Fisheries Association, I wished to discuss the matter with my General Purposes Committee before doing so. I hope you will be able to provide copies to members of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee at the meeting next Monday.

I consider the existing administrative organisation is far too heavy for the work the committees do. Many of the matters placed before the local committees are of a very general nature, and could be dealt with more easily and efficiently by a streamlined organisation. There are of course the matters of local importance which have been considered, and the particular committee's opinions have been of value to the Authority, but examples of such matters are hardly overwhelming. I feel that the Authority is not really deriving sufficient benefit from the present system to allow it to continue indefinitely without improvements or changes being made. I do not think the committees have proved to be as constructive as was envisaged when they were formed, and it would not be unfair to say that no overall fishery policy has emerged during the life of the Authority. In these circumstances it must be right to review the committee structure.

I would be utterly opposed to the establishment of fewer advisory committees without some form of local consultation. It is of the utmost importance that this should be retained, so that matters of purely local concern can be considered by those with an intimate knowledge of their own rivers and districts. Such knowledge is invaluable.

When River Boards were created in 1951, the Minister recommended that Fisheries Associations should be formed specifically to advise the Boards on fishery matters and to provide members to represent fishery interests. The River Eden and District Fisheries Association like many others, was (and still is) a very active organisation. Its advice was constantly sought by the Cumberland River Board, and it worked very closely with it and its successor the River Authority. I see no reason why Fisheries Associations should not be brought back into the advisory system to fulfil the role for which they were created. I believe they are as well, if not better qualified to represent fisheries than the present advisory committees, as they are actively associated with local fisheries and their problems.

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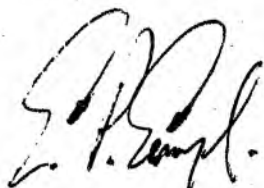
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It would be a matter for discussion as to how the Associations might be integrated into the advisory system, but by restoring official recognition to them, the unwieldy shortcomings of the existing organisation would be overcome, the statutory obligations of the Authority would be satisfied, and because the Fisheries Associations are so closely involved with the interests and wellbeing of their particular river systems, they would provide very effective local fishery representation, resulting in much good will being engendered.

I would suggest that meetings of the Associations need be attended by only the Area Fisheries Officer, as there would be no representation from any interest other than fisheries. Any other interests could be catered for by establishing a northern and southern area committee.

In conclusion, I should explain that the views I have expressed are not necessarily those of the North Cumbria Fisheries Advisory Committee as a whole, but they are supported by the majority of the individual members.

Yours sincerely,



E.P. Ecroyd.

Chairman, North Cumbria Fisheries Advisory Committee.

c.c. T.A.F. Barnes, Esq.
Chairman, Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Blackburn and District Anglers' Association

Treasurer:
Mr. A. SANDERSON
70 DURHAM ROAD
BLACKBURN
BB1 9NH
Telephone: (0254) 47561

Secretary:
Mr. B. HOGGARTH
1 MOORFIELD ROAD
LEYLAND
PR5 3AR
Telephone: Leyland 24018

The Chairman,
N.W.W.A. Advisory Committee,

3rd July 1980.

Dear Sir,

The committee of the above Association are most concerned at the proposed disbandment of the N.W.W.A. Advisory Committee and would strongly urge that this be fought on any grounds available. I am sure that to disband the committee would result in a deterioration of relations between the water authority and Ribble Fisheries and that all fishing clubs concerned would support any effort to avoid this decision being taken.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary.

RIBBLE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

Hon. Secretary: J. P. LORD

OAK MILL
MELLOR STREET
ROCHDALE
OL12 6UY

Telephone
341311

JPL/DC.

21st July, 1980.

The Chairman,
South Lancashire Fisheries Advisory Committee,
15, Winckley Street,
Preston.

Dear Sir,

The Council and Members of the Ribble Fisheries Association were extremely disturbed when I reported to them that the North West Water Authority was considering the future of the S.L.F.A.C. with the possibility of curtailment.

The members on this committee give their time voluntarily, and it is the only occasion^{-any} that N.W.W.A. Officials get the people who have first hand knowledge of the Ribble Watershed on a regular basis. We have been told on several occasions by the Water Quality People, of the N.W.W.A., that the fishermen are the best observers of the state of the river and they help considerably with the monitoring of the water quality.

Perhaps, if the Authority is looking for a compromise solution, it would be sensible to reduce the number of meetings held.

Yours sincerely,

J. Lord (H.S.)

J.P. LORD.
Hon. Secretary.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY	
RECEIVED	
21 JUL 1980	
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BY	Gm/IWS
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RF1/A13

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY, 1980APPOINTMENT OF FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVES ON
LOCAL LAND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

1. The Constitution of the Land Drainage Advisory Committees provides for the appointment of fisheries representatives thereon and at the present time the members serving in that capacity are as set out below:-

<u>Advisory Committees</u>		<u>Fisheries Representatives</u>
Cumberland	-	Mr. E.P. Ecroyd
(2 places)	-	1 vacancy (due to the resignation of
	-	Mr. W.F. Hobson).
Lancashire	-	Mr. J.H. Fell
(1 place)		
Mersey & Weaver	-	Mr. J.S. Bailey
(1 place)		

2. The Committee is requested to make the appointments for 1980-81.

F1/B3

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

28TH JULY, 1980

INCOME FROM SALE OF ROD AND LINE LICENCES 1979

1. For the information of Members a summary of income from the sale of rod and line licences is attached as an appendix.
2. The summary compares details of licences sold during 1979 with those for 1978. The actual number sold showed an increase of 2.85% in 1979 and the increase in income was 3.36%. There were increases in sales of most categories of season licences in 1979, but sales of seven day licences for both salmon, and freshwater fish and eels showed reductions. Sales of freshwater fish and eel licences for the former Mersey and Weaver River Authority Area were virtually identical in the two years.

APPENDIX

INCOME FROM SALE OF
ROD AND LINE FISHING LICENCES
1979

Whole Area	1978 Value £	Number	Amount £	1979 Value £	Number	Amount £
Salmon Season	15.60	1,635	25,506.00	15.60	1,723	26,956.80
Salmon to 31st May	7.80	36	280.80	7.80	25	195.00
Salmon from 1st June	9.00	2,922	26,298.00	9.00	3,040	27,360.00
Salmon Season, reduced duty	6.50	657	4,270.50	6.50	686	4,459.00
Salmon to 31st May reduced duty	3.25	4	13.00	3.25	7	22.75
Salmon from 1st June reduced duty	4.00	575	2,300.00	4.00	583	2,332.00
Salmon 7 day	2.60	2,268	5,896.80	2.60	2,174	5,652.40
Total Salmon and Largemouth Trout		8,097	64,565.10		8,238	66,977.95
Non-Migratory Trout Season	2.60	23,490	61,074.00	2.60	23,871	62,064.60
Non-Migratory Trout reduced duty Season	1.25	4,252	5,315.00	1.25	4,380	5,475.00
Non-Migratory Trout 7 day	0.65	12,655	8,225.75	0.65	13,245	8,609.25
Total Non-Migratory Trout		40,397	74,614.75		41,496	76,148.85
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Season	1.25	28,000	35,000.00	1.25	29,817	37,271.25
Freshwater Fish and Eels, Season reduced duty	0.65	5,431	3,530.15	0.65	5,927	3,852.55
Freshwater Fish and Eels, 7 day	0.35	4,609	1,613.15	0.35	3,979	1,392.65
Total Whole Area Freshwater Fish		38,040	40,143.30		39,723	42,516.45
Former Mersey & Weaver River Authority area Freshwater Fish & Eels Season	0.65	11,899	7,734.35	0.65	11,961	7,774.65
Freshwater Fish & Eels reduced duty	0.35	3,386	1,185.10	0.35	3,294	1,152.90
Total M & W Area Freshwater fish		15,285	8,919.45		15,255	8,927.55
TOTAL		101,819	188,242.60		104,712	194,570.80

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980FISHING OFFENCES AND PROSECUTIONS 1979/80

1. The total number of persons prosecuted by the Authority for fishing offences during 1979/80 was 406 compared with 390 in 1978/79.
2. The employment of part-time bailiffs increased the number of offences which were reported in the Mersey and Weaver area and as a result the number of prosecutions in that area almost doubled. However, there was also a corresponding rise in juvenile first offenders, whom it is not the Authority's policy to prosecute, and in the number of offenders who could not be traced after giving false names and addresses. Consequently, there was also an increase in the proportion of offenders who were not prosecuted.
3. The average fine imposed by the courts in the Mersey and Weaver area increased by about 50% over the 1978/79 average.
4. In the region 21 persons were prosecuted for the use of illegal instruments, 105 for byelaw offences and giving false names and addresses and 280 for fishing without a licence. Action was taken on a further 403 cases which did not result in legal proceedings being instituted. Every case taken to court by the Authority resulted in a successful prosecution.
5. A summary, of offences and prosecutions within the region during 1979/80 is attached as an appendix hereto. A more detailed report has been submitted to each Local Advisory Committee on fishing offences and prosecutions within their area.

ANNUAL SUMMARY - FISHING OFFENCES

<u>Whole Region</u>	<u>1978/79</u>	<u>1979/80</u>
Total Offence Reports	607	809
Prosecutions	390	406
Not prosecuted	217	403
Fines	£8,425	£8,072
Costs awarded to Authority	£2,763	£2,978
Fees paid	£2,593	£2,163
<u>Derwent and West Cumbria</u>		
Total Offence Reports	57	43
Prosecutions	36	26
Not prosecuted	21	17
Fines	£2,040	£1,270
Costs awarded to Authority	£ 403	£ 280
Fees paid	£1,034	£ 812
<u>North Cumbria</u>		
Total Offence Reports	172	149
Prosecutions	87	71
Not prosecuted	85	78
Fines	£932	£967
Costs awarded to Authority	£373	£332
Fees paid	£ 15	£ 29
<u>Lune, Wyre and Furness</u>		
Total Offence Reports	159	99
Prosecutions	123	72
Not prosecuted	36	27
Fines	£3,148	£2,562
Costs awarded to Authority	£1,033	£ 784
Fees paid	£1,004	£ 638
<u>South Lancashire</u>		
Total Offence Reports	94	158
Prosecutions	68	98
Not prosecuted	26	60
Fines	£1,640	£1,488
Costs awarded to Authority	£ 384	£ 746
Fees paid	£ 237	£ 112
<u>Mersey and Weaver</u>		
Total Offence Reports	125	360
Prosecutions	76	139
Not prosecuted	49	221
Fines	£665	£1,785
Costs awarded to Authority	£570	£ 836
Fees paid	£302	£ 572

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED
FISHERIES BY LOCAL ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS

1. At the meeting of the Mersey and Weaver Local Committee held on 18th June, 1980, (Minute No. 37) it was proposed that in view of the current financial situation and the consequent restraints imposed upon the fisheries budget, the Authority consider the feasibility of transferring the duties in relation to their administration and management in respect of selected fisheries to reputable angling associations.
2. The Local Committee envisaged that in such cases, the Authority might lease a given fishery to such association, possibly on a yearly basis. The association concerned would then become responsible for the stocking and bailiffing of the fishery, and were of the opinion that in the present economic climate this arrangement would benefit the Authority who would be in receipt of certain regular income without the necessity for any outlay.
3. The officers explained that before any such arrangement could even be contemplated problems of capital expenditure likely to be encountered by any association so involved, in relation to upkeep and safety standards, would need to be resolved and that in any case such proposals would need to be considered by the Authority's Recreation Sub-Committee in the context of overall recreation policy.
4. The Local Committee then resolved:

"That the views of the Regional Committee be sought on the proposal."

F2/A29

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE28TH JULY 1980COOPS ON RIVERS DERWENT AND EDEN

1. Under the Cumberland River Board (Fixed Engines) Order 1961 the Authority may with the approval of MAFF erect and work fixed engines within the former Cumberland River Board area for the purpose of catching salmon or migratory trout for scientific or propagation purposes. Specific Approvals, which are normally granted for five years, are given in respect of each particular trap which it is intended to use for these purposes. Approval to the use of traps for propagation purposes is often granted so as to enable trapping to take place during the appropriate close seasons.
 2. The Authority desires to operate two coops which are at present worked under licence during the fishing season by private persons. The coops concerned are:-
 - (a) In the River Eden at Corby Castle, Wetheral, Nr. Carlisle, Cumbria. The licence is granted to Sir William H. Lawson of Wood House, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle.
 - (b) In the River Derwent near Workington. The licence is granted to the Egremount Estate Company of Estate Office, Cockermouth Castle, Cockermouth.
- The owners of the coops have indicated that they are willing to permit the Authority to work the coops for propagation or for scientific purposes.
3. It is intended to apply for the Approval of the Minister to the working of the coops for scientific purposes at any time, and for propagation purposes during the relevant annual close season (other than for rod and line). In the case of the River Eden coop this is from 1st September to the last day of February following inclusive, and for the River Derwent coop it is from 1st September to 31st March inclusive.